

promptly relieved of symptoms while taking an anticholinergic drug. Rheumatoid arthritis vaccine can, it seems, be continued for years without reaction or any detectable harm. It would be helpful to have some evidence of efficacy presented.

Much industry has gone into the preparation of this book.

A. H. DOUTHWAITE.

PRE- AND POST-NATAL LIFE

The Mammalian Fetus: Physiological Aspects of Development. Cold Spring Harbor Symposia on Quantitative Biology, Volume XIX. (Pp. 225+xii; illustrated. \$8.) New York: Biological Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor. 1954.

This book records the papers read and discussions held at a meeting of laboratory workers and clinicians of different countries, all of whom share a common interest in pre- and post-natal life. The symposium itself, which was one of a distinguished series, represents a type of scientific meeting which is too rare in this country, when workers of different disciplines but one common interest not only meet together for discussion but also live together long enough to understand the details of the different aspects of their common problem.

The general production of the book is excellent, though it suffers a little from a disparity in the standard of the illustrations, and in a few places there are printer's errors which make the text a little puzzling. However, these are a small price to pay for the advantage of having within the covers of one book a series of papers which take us from the ovum to the newborn mammal (or infant) and are still largely up to date and give us references to much of the most recent literature. It is of particular interest to note that almost all the contributors are aware that they are only on the fringe of their subject. We are free here from the arid raking over of the ashes of old controversies, and the general spirit of the approach suggests, as it should, vitality. It would be invidious to pick out particular papers, but some are excellent and full of ideas.

This book should be read by both laboratory workers and clinicians interested in this field. In particular it should be read by those who feel that obstetrics presents only a few simple problems in mechanics which are already mainly solved.

K. W. CROSS.

SEXUAL CONSTITUTION

Sexuelle Konstitution. Psychopathie, Kriminalität, Genie. By Dr. Helene Stourzh-Anderle. (Pp. 262+ix. \$6.25.) Wien: Wilhelm Maudrich. 1955.

This volume on sexual constitution inaugurates a new series of publications: the Viennese Contributions to Sexual Research. The author outlines 72 previous attempts to establish constitutional types, but, undismayed, she adds yet another typological system for which she claims special advantages. In the fabric of her theory are interwoven three main conceptual strands in many combinations and patterns: (a) "intersexuality"—indicating the bisexual genetic components in physical and psychological personality traits; (b) "subsexuality"—indicating the degree of sexual immaturity and infantilism; and (c) "free-floating sexual energy"—indicating that portion of bisexual endowment which runs counter to the dominantly manifested sexual trends. The last factor may become responsible for sexual perversions, or it may assist in creating a deviant personality, of which there are three main types: the personality of the neurotic, the criminal, and the creative genius. Sexual constitution, thus conceived, becomes all-explanatory.

The author is aware how vain the endeavour is to fit the manifold nuances of individual differences into a few stereotyped Procrustean beds. Yet her desire to typify is hardly tempered by such awareness. In an appendix of sexual biographies the giants of world literature are mutilated almost beyond recognition in order to present them as types. Goethe is characterized as sexually weak, as a decidedly feminine genius; and Shakespeare is just a "homosexual misogynist." Yet these diagnoses are perfectly in line with the author's description of the type of "intersexual

(feminine) man," which ends categorically and dogmatically like this: "When in a letter or in an essay every second sentence begins with 'I,' when each conversation starts with 'I,' and, even more, when in the title of a book the possessive pronoun 'My . . . ' appears, then the diagnosis of the femininity of the author is as good as established."

Yet in spite of these shortcomings of the main thesis the book offers much instruction and stimulating thought. The author is a woman of great erudition who freely mentions the observations and theories of many scientists working in diverse fields of research ranging from biology and ethology to endocrinology and psychiatry. She is equally well acquainted with the writings of poets, novelists, and playwrights, and elaborates her theme by many apt quotations from them. Her list of references contains over 800 items. It would have been helpful if the publishers had provided an index.

F. K. TAYLOR.

SOCIAL SCIENCE EXAMINES THE ENGLISH

English Social Differences. By T. H. Pear, M.A., B.Sc. (Pp. 318. 18s.) London: George Allen and Unwin Ltd. 1955.

Professor Pear, who writes this natural history of the English social scene in the twentieth century, is an Englishman, like ourselves; so that if we are queasy he is also a little sick, and if we do not see straight he must needs squint a little. If Margaret Read writes a report on the Sandwich Islanders, she describes objectively a culture she does not share and documents it for those who have no first-hand experience of it. Professor Pear realizes the difficulty of objective reportage, and therefore quotes extensively from the observations of others, and in order that the reader may judge his impartiality he includes a statement of his own prejudices in a summary. Even here he finds it difficult to lay aside his judicial robes, and at the end of a long discussion of the influence of public schools it is impossible both for him and for us to conclude whether his private opinion is for or against.

History-taking is not strictly an expression either of art or of science; it is compounded of some of the qualities of both. Here again Professor Pear is in difficulty, for while discarding the help of the novelist he seldom achieves an exact measurement of social differences. One of the few exceptions to this last comment is the result of an inquiry addressed to her Majesty's judges, given as an example of a powerful élite in this country. Of the 74 judges who replied, 74% stated that they had been educated at public schools, 15% at grammar schools, and 7% at secondary schools. Access to a powerful élite depends, then, neither on economic status nor on social stratum. Another example of an élite is taken from our own profession—the Medical Research Council, whose function is to advise the Lord President of the Council. The stratification within the medical profession is also described, and our author concludes this paragraph with the sentence: "Yet there are 'ceilings' to the usefulness of such a reputation for, as Margaret Cole remarks, though elevation to a knighthood usually helps a specialist, to become a peer may be costly, since nowadays few patients believe that they can afford to be medically attended by a Lord." This quotation illustrates not only the impercipient of some of the comment but also the inelegance of much of the writing. One last complaint: why in a book on English social differences is there no reference to the influence of the monarchy?

Although this short review has emphasized little more than the difficulties inherent in such a study, this book is indeed full of accurate observation and careful research. The publishers have thoughtfully provided for the hasty reviewer a few gossip extracts, such as "P. 113, Is the Admiralty opposed to provincial accents?" and "P. 146, Is the napkin-ring a mark of the middle-class?" These suggested head-lines hardly do justice to Professor Pear's hope that his book may make a contribution to the "understanding" (*verstehende*) type of psychology. We can assure him that it does.

D. V. HUBBLE.